

## **ANISHINAABEG CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON REPATRIATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HUMAN REMAINS and CULTURAL ITEMS**

Notice is hereby given that we, the Native American (Anishinaabeg) people of Michigan, set forth this consensus statement and wish full participation from all indigenous peoples. Repatriation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and items of cultural patrimony is one of the highest priorities for Native American people and our tribal governments. We, the indigenous persons of Michigan, are unwavering in our commitment to return our ancestors and their funerary items to the earth in our respectful and proper way.

In 1990, the federal government respected our wishes and enacted the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Almost a full decade later, its requirements still have not been met by some parties.

Each of the signatory tribes to this agreement authorizes any private landowner, individual, governmental entity, university, organization or institution to return Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or items of cultural patrimony in its possession to any Repatriation Designee (s) of any of the undersigned tribes. Each of the signatories to this document has been duly authorized by his or her respective tribal government to sign on its behalf.

It is the unanimous desire of the Native American people of Michigan (Anishinaabeg) that these items be returned as quickly as possible to a Repatriation Designee of any of the undersigned tribes. All of the undersigned tribes recognize that we, as Anishinaabeg and as the People of the Three Fires, are culturally affiliated. Therefore, as long as one of the requesting undersigned Three Fires, are culturally affiliated. Therefore, as long as one of the requesting undersigned tribes shows, by a preponderance of the evidence [as required by 43 CFR § 10.10(a) (1)(ii)(B) and § 10.10 (b)(1)(ii)(B)], cultural affiliation as Anishinaabeg, then the remains or items should be repatriated to that party as per NAGPRA regulations. If there are questions or concerns that address those concerns amongst ourselves. The undersigned tribes unequivocally assert that it is we who are the experts in determining cultural affiliation for repatriation purposes and that NAGPRA specifically recognizes our expertise in 25 UCS § 3005 (a)(4).

Each of the undersigned tribes agrees not to hold any party, who complies in good faith with a repatriation request under authority of this document, liable for such actions. This comports with the provisions of NAGPRA found in 25 USC § 3005 (f) and 43 § part 3005 (f) and 43 CFR § 10.15(a) (1).

We oppose the scientific study, in any form whatsoever, of our ancestral human remains or sacred and ceremonial objects. We ask you to respect our ancestors and our spiritually as well as our inherent right to protect them under federal law.

Anishnabeg Consensus Statement on Repatriation  
of Native American Human Remains and Cultural Items, continued

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